

REMARKS

The above-identified application is United States application serial number 09/871,320 filed on May 30, 2001. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 are rejected.

Rejection of Claim Under 35 USC §102

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yuyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,612,732). Applicants have amended claim 15 to distinguish over the cited art.

Rejection of Claim Under 35 USC §103

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuyama et al. in view of Kinoshita (U.S. Patent No. 4,901,160). Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuyama et al in view of Finella (U.S. Patent No. 4,937,676). Applicants have amended claim 15 and thus, by dependence, claims 16-18 to distinguish over the cited art.

New Claims

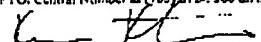
Applicants have added new claims 19 and 20 to cover additional aspects of the disclosed apparatus.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe all remaining claims are in form for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. No new matter has been added. In the event it would facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (949) 251-0250.

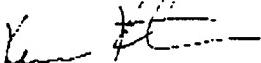
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, Central Number at (703) 372-7300 on the date shown below:


(Signature)

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November 5, 2004
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,


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